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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,068	10/30/2003	Brian Burkinshaw	2108.000400/IOI-444-CIP	8117
45488	7590	09/21/2005	EXAMINER	
WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON, P.C./ZIMMER 10333 RICHMOND, SUITE 1100 HOUSTON, TX 77042		REIMERS, ANN ETTE R		
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3732		

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	10/697,068	
Examiner	BURKINSHAW ET AL.	
Annette R. Reimers	Art Unit 3732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2005 and 07 July 2005.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-59 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-8,10,11,15-31,33,42-44,46,51,55,56 and 58 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-3,9,12-14,32,34-41,45,47-50,52-54,57 and 59 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Species II, figures 9-11, in the reply filed on July 7, 2005 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that claim 15 is not considered to generic and that claims 2, 3, 9, 12-14, 40, 41, 45-53 and 57. Examiners agrees with applicant and finds the argument persuasive except for claims 46 and 51, because claim 46 is dependent from withdrawn claim 44 and claim 51 claims to the cylinder claims, which have been withdrawn.

It is further acknowledged that applicant believes that claims 1-3, 9, 12-14, 32, 34-41, 45-54, 57 and 59 read on the elected Species. The examiner agrees with the applicant regarding all claims except claims 46 and 51 (see explanation above).

Claims 4-8, 10-11, 15-31, 33, 42-44, 46, 51, 55-56 and 58 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on July 7, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 9, 12-14, 32, 34-41, 45, 47-48, 52-54, 57 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Garretson (U.S. Patent No. 3,835,860).

Garretson discloses a device for forming multiple holes in subchondral bone, comprising a housing, 12, coupled to a fracture pin having a sharpened tip, 38 and 39, the sharpened tip adapted to penetrate subchondral bone, and a trigger, 27, that is adapted to, when actuated, cause the sharpened tip to move and penetrate into the subchondral bone, thereby forming at least one of the holes.

A biasing member is adapted to cause the sharpened tip to return to an initial, retracted position after the hole has been formed (see column 5, lines 1-7). The trigger has a biasing spring, 124, coupled to the trigger such that when the trigger is actuated, a biasing force is created to return the trigger to an initial starting position (see column 4, lines 35-36). The device further discloses a guide tube, 22, with an angled tip, 52, wherein the fracture pin is positioned within the guide tube. A means is provided for limiting the movement of the sharpened tip when the trigger is actuated to limit the depth of the hole (see column 2, lines 1-9).

The device also includes a moveable hammer, 150, coupled to the trigger, that when actuated, causes the sharpened tip to move and penetrate into the subchondral bone forming a hole. The hammer is coupled to a biasing member, 162, the biasing member being adapted to create a bias force when the hammer is rotatably moved by actuation of the trigger. A recess, 153, is formed in the hammer and a structural member, 154, coupled to the trigger, in which a portion of the structural member is positioned in the recess in the hammer. The structural member comprises a sliding

removable cross bar, and the cross bar is adapted to be positioned in the recess in the hammer (see figure 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garretson (U.S. Patent No. 3,835,860).

Garretson discloses the claimed invention except for the device wherein the angled tip has an angle that ranges from approximately 30-60 degrees and wherein the guide tube has an outside diameter that ranges from approximately 6-8 millimeters. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of Garretson wherein the angled tip has an angle that ranges from approximately 30-60 degrees and wherein the guide tube has an outside diameter that ranges from approximately 6-8 millimeters, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-59 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO 892 for art cited of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Annette R. Reimers whose telephone number is (571) 272-7135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AR



EDUARDO C. ROBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER